

Shown below is the entire set of the pending claims. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

1. (Currently amended) A thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray trimmed from a thermal plastic expanded foam web, comprising:
- a substantially rectangular bottom wall;
  - side walls extending upward and outward from the bottom wall integrally interconnected to each other at four corners;
  - each of the side walls having an inclined lower section and an upper section that extends upward terminating in a lip that extends outward around the periphery of the tray; and
  - the upper wall section having an alignment internal inclined corner surface on an inside surface of each corner inclined in a vertical plane and surfaces extending upward and outward to the lip at each of the four corners, each alignment corner surface in a horizontal plane comprising a curved arc having a radius covering an angle that is greater than an angle formed by a radius for subtending an angle greater than an angle subtended by the respective corner and specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner alignment fixture to maintain the tray accurately aligned at the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web, and each inclined corner surface in a vertical plane forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between a corresponding lower wall section and the bottom wall.

2. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the upper sections of the side walls have inside reinforcing ribs formed therein in which the inclined alignment corner surfaces are indented into the ribs at the corners of the side walls.

3. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined alignment corner surfaces extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

4. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined alignment corner surfaces extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 100 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

5. (Original) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the lower sections of the side walls are inclined upward and outward at an angle of between 110 degrees and 140 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

6. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined alignment corner surfaces is curved having an arc of greater than 90 degrees relative to a center of curvature.

7. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the inclined alignment corner surfaces is curved and wherein the curved inclined corner surface extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees.

8. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the lower sections of the side walls are inclined upward and outward relative to the bottom wall at an inclined angle of between 110 degrees and 140 degrees and wherein at least one of the inclined alignment corner surfaces is curved and wherein the curved inclined alignment corner surface extends upward and outward to the lip at a steep angle of between 94 degrees and 105 degrees.

9. (Original) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the upper section of the side walls has inside wall surfaces that are ribbed and extend upward and outward between the lower section and the lip at an inclined angle relative to the bottom wall of between 110 and 140 degrees.

10. (Currently amended) The thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray as defined in claim 1 wherein the alignment corner surfaces each comprise a discrete indented surface that is ~~are~~ conical shaped having a steep angle of between 94 and 105 degrees relative to the bottom wall.

17. (Currently amended) A thermal plastic expanded foam rectangular meat tray trimmed from a thermal plastic expanded foam web, comprising:

a substantially rectangular bottom wall;

side walls extending upward and outward from the bottom wall integrally interconnected to each other at four corners;

each of the side walls having a lower section with an inclined inside surface and an upper section that extends upward terminating in a lip that extends outward around the periphery of the tray; and

the upper section having a discrete alignment ~~internal inclined inside corner surface recessed into an internal surface of each corner inclined in a vertical plane and surfaces extending upward and outward to the lip at the four corners, each alignment corner surface in a horizontal plane comprising a curved arc covering an angle that is greater than an angle formed~~ ~~subtending an angle greater than an angle subtended by the~~ respective corner, and each inclined inside corner surface in a vertical plane forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between the lower section and the bottom wall to provide a conical alignment surface at each corner configured to interact with an alignment structure of an article trim press.

18. (Currently amended) The meat tray of claim 17 wherein the conical alignment corner surface is specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner alignment fixture of a trim press to maintain the tray accurately aligned at the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web by the trim press.

19. (Currently amended) The meat tray of claim 17 wherein the lower section provides a coarse alignment surface and the conical alignment corner surface of the upper section provides a fine alignment surface.

20. (Currently amended) The meat tray of claim 19 wherein an outer surface of the lower section and the conical alignment corner surface cooperate to provide a bifurcated alignment structure including the outer surface of the lower section which cooperates during a severing operation with a female die member to provide a coarse alignment structure and the conical alignment corner surface of the upper section which cooperates with a complementary alignment surface of an alignment fixture on a male die member to provide a fine alignment structure.

21. (Currently amended) A molded plastic overwrap tray, comprising:  
a bottom wall;  
at least one side wall extending upward and outward from the bottom wall, the side wall having an inclined lower section and an upper section that extends upward and outward around the periphery of the tray;  
the upper wall section having a plurality of spaced-apart alignment internal ~~inclined~~ corner surfaces inclined in a vertical plane and extending upward and outward to the periphery of the tray, each alignment corner surface in a horizontal plane comprising a curved arc greater than an angle formed ~~subtending an angle greater than an angle~~ ~~subtended~~ by the respective corner and specifically provided to receive an internal complementary mating corner alignment fixture to maintain the tray accurately aligned at

the corners as the tray is being trimmed from the thermal plastic expanded foam web, and each inclined corner surface in a vertical plane forming an obtuse angle with the bottom wall that is less than a corresponding obtuse angle formed between the lower wall section and the bottom wall.

22. (Previously added) The tray of claim 21 wherein the bottom wall comprises a rectangular bottom wall and the at least one side wall comprises four side walls configured in a rectangular array with adjacent pairs of the side walls each forming a generally rectangular corner therebetween.

23. (Currently amended) The tray of claim 22 wherein the plurality of spaced-apart internal inclined alignment corner surfaces comprises four spaced-apart internal alignment inclined corner surfaces, one provided at each corner of the tray, and wherein each corner surface provides a conical alignment surface forming a steep obtuse angle in a vertical plane relative to the bottom wall.

24. (Currently amended) The tray of claim 23 wherein each internal inclined alignment corner surface is recessed into an inner surface of an adjacent pair of the side walls so as to provide a concave, conical alignment corner surface therein.

Add new claim 25:

25. (New) The tray of claim 21 wherein each internal inclined alignment corner surface comprises an arcuate alignment shoulder formed in the corner and recessed relative to an inner surface of the corner adjacent the alignment shoulder.